



# *The Old Ironsides Report*



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## IPs, MPs work together to make march successful

Story and photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts, 1st Armored Division, PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq— On September 22, more than 3 million Shiite Iraqis converged on Baghdad to participate in an annual march commemorating the death of the Islamic religious figure Imam Moussa El-Kathemi.

Soldiers from 615<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, part of 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division's 18 MP Brigade, had never seen millions of people marching in the streets. The Iraqi Police Service had never set up an operations center or run a plan off a map before. It could have been a disaster, but through the teamwork and joint efforts of the IPs and MPs, it was actually a success.

"We saw the event coming," said Capt. Thomas Russell-Tutty, commander of 615<sup>th</sup> MP Company. "We knew we had to plan for the worst case scenario."

Along with 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joshua Campbell, a platoon leader with 615<sup>th</sup> MP CO, Russell-Tutty spent the two weeks prior to the march working with IPS members. Initially, the two groups had different ideas on how it should be handled.

"The Iraqi police had experience with marches. We knew there was an increased threat with the presence of Coalition forces and religious tensions, which was something they didn't have to worry about during Saddam's regime," Russell-Tutty said. "We met in the middle on a lot of issues."

The Iraqi police schooled the military police on past marches, while the MPs led their Iraqi colleagues through a series of rehearsals and drills. Together, they planned how they would react to different scenarios such as bombings, mass casualties and civil disturbances.

"It was basically a condensed version of the Military Decision Process," said Russell-Tutty.

Boat police, firefighters, hospitals, bomb experts, and religious leaders were also alerted, so they could be prepared in case of an incident.

"Everyone was on the same sheet of music," said Russell-Tutty. "We were all tied into the same plan."

When the marchers started off around 8 a.m., both groups of police were ready.



**1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Joshua Campbell, a platoon leader with 615<sup>th</sup> Military Police Company, and Capt. Thomas Russell-Tutty, the commander of 615<sup>th</sup> MP CO, stand in front of an up-armored Humvee. Campbell and Russell-Tutty worked with the Iraqi Police Service to ensure the annual Shiite March was successful.**

More than 750 IPs spent the day maintaining traffic control points and keeping the crowd controlled. They used two-way radios—newly issued by 1AD—to keep in constant communication with each other and with their U.S. counterparts.

"Having the radios was really important," said Russell-Tutty. "Communication is the key to any event."

Though the soldiers stayed off the streets, they worked side by side with the IPs monitoring command and control centers in Iraqi Police Stations.

If a major incident occurred, the MPs were ready to back up the IPs, said Russell-Tutty.

In the end, neither the IPs nor the MPs had anything to worry about: the march went off without a hitch. Russell-Tutty attributes this to the deliberate planning and numerous rehearsals.

"Overall, the event was a tremendous success," said Russell-Tutty. "This is the biggest thing Iraqi police have ever done. Their ability to put all the pieces together—the traffic police, the boat police—mixed with the emergency forces—medical assets and firefighters—was extraordinary. They proved they are a force to be reckoned with."

## NEWS

### White House Denies Leaking CIA Identity

WASHINGTON (AP) - The White House on Monday denied that President Bush's chief political strategist was involved in revealing the identity of a CIA operative, in possible violation of the law. A Democratic senator has asked Justice Department to appoint a special counsel to probe the matter. The naming of the intelligence officer's identity by syndicated columnist Robert Novak came shortly after her husband, former ambassador Joseph C. Wilson, undermined Bush's claim that Iraq had tried to buy uranium in Africa.

### Iran Acknowledges Enriched Uranium Found

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Iran acknowledged Monday that traces of weapons-grade uranium were found at one of its nuclear facilities, but denied it enriched the material, and its foreign minister said the country was prepared to allow unfettered nuclear inspections. Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said his country has "nothing to hide" from inspectors. But he said that before Iran signs a protocol allowing the more severe inspections; it wants assurances that signing will end the conflict over its nuclear program.

### Schwarzenegger Far Ahead in New Poll

REDDING, Calif. (AP) - Buoyed by new poll numbers, Arnold Schwarzenegger barnstormed around California as voters seemed to indicate they heavily favored recalling Gov. Gray Davis - and replacing him with the Hollywood star. The CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll shows the Republican candidate far ahead of his nearest rivals as the Oct. 7 election approaches, with most voters choosing Davis' removal.

### FCC Says It Will Enforce Do-Not-Call List

WASHINGTON (AP) - Businesses that solicit people on a do-not-call list for telemarketers could face fines after all. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell said Monday his agency will enforce the penalties because the Federal Trade Commission is prevented from doing so because of a federal judge's order.

## *On the other hand...*

### State Department Issues Mouse Alert

WASHINGTON (AP) -- As if the State Department didn't have enough to worry about with Iran, Iraq and the French: the onset of cooler weather in the capital has prompted a mouse alarm.

The department issued a warning Monday in its main building, saying that "increasing numbers of mice and their larger cousins" were set to launch their annual search for warm lodging and food.

Unfortunately, the notice added, ongoing renovations in some areas of the building provide convenient pathways for rodents.

The department's thousands of employees were told not to leave food around their desks, to pick up any dropped crumbs and to reduce clutter.

Supervisors were singled out for an admonition to make sure custodial workers are able to get into secure areas to remove trash.

Mouse sightings or questions about the pest management program should be directed to the facility management service desk, the warning advised.

### N.H. Court Trashes Private Garbage Search

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) - The New Hampshire Supreme Court ruled Monday that garbage is private, even when it has been put out near the street for collection.

The 4-1 decision runs counter to rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court and high courts in most other states. But the court said New Hampshire's constitution provides a stronger expectation of privacy than the U.S. Constitution.

The decision came in a case in which police searched a man's trash and found wire scrapers coated with marijuana residue.

Based on that and the observation that John Goss appeared to have a light for growing plants, police got a warrant to search his home, where they seized marijuana and three pipes. Goss appealed, saying it was illegal for police to search his garbage without a warrant.

The high court agreed and ordered a lower court judge to decide whether the search warrant for Goss' home could have been obtained without the illegal evidence.

### Safety Tip of the day... FIELD EXPEDIENCY "CUTTING CORNERS"

#### DON'T

- DO A JOB WITHOUT THE PROPER EQUIPMENT
- RUSH A JOB IF THERE IS NOT A COMBAT NECESSITY
- "RE-WIRE THE HOUSE IF YOUR NOT AN ELECTRICIAN"

#### DO

- ✓ STOP, THINK, AND THEN ACT
- ✓ SEEK GUIDANCE IF UNSURE
- ✓ LOOK FOR SAFER ALTERNATIVES

### Chaplain's Thought for the Day:

#### **Our Feelings**

Young man, the secret of my success is that at an early age I discovered I was not God.

--Oliver Wendell Holmes

Sometimes we try to get others to treat us the way we want them to, to do things we want them to. When they're upset or angry with us, we try to get them to stop, rather than allow them to be angry.

But our feelings are ours alone, and we are responsible only for how we feel. Those around us are not the cause of our feelings. We are. This knowledge is a big responsibility, because we know we cannot blame others for our bad moods. But it is a fact. And this fact is also a wonderful freedom for us, for it means that we also have the power to make ourselves happy, no matter what goes on around us.